

Via FAX

432 Greensboro Drive
Dayton, OH 45459
January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U S Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

During the period of the past three years, the IT industry and the general public have been forced to endure the US vs Microsoft lawsuit. This unfortunate suit has slowed innovation and movement in the software industry and has hurt investment in technology as a whole. Consumers have taken the suit in stride even though it is they who will receive the bill for the case by way of higher prices on technology products through the coming years.

The settlement has teeth that force Microsoft to disclose proprietary software code to competitors and will exist under the constant scrutiny of a three-person committee in its future business dealings. These and other points in the settlement make it more than fair to all the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Now that all the involved parties have been served, a settlement must be formalized. The Department of Justice must see that the needs of the consumer are met in ending this lawsuit as soon as legally possible. I urge the Department of Justice to formalize the proposed settlement as soon as this period of public comment concludes.

Sincerely,



Arthur C. O'Neil